International Student Handbook
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Part I. Ahlan wa Sahlan

Welcome to AUC
Ahlan wa Shalan! Welcome to The American University in Cairo. As a newly accepted international student at AUC it is important that you prepare for your journey by learning about AUC, Cairo and Egypt. This handbook is a great place to begin! Designed to enhance your overseas educational experience, the International Student Handbook highlights all you need to know before you leave home, once you arrive in Cairo and after you settle in. Enjoy these pages. We welcome your feedback about this book and invite you to assist us in keeping the content up to date and relevant. Send feedback and/or information you think should be included in this publication to isa@aucegypt.edu

AUC Campuses
AUC Downtown
The historic AUC Downtown campus - in the heart of downtown Cairo - is home to the university's School of Continuing Education, management center and the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, as well as an AUC Press bookstore, Margo Veillon Gallery for Contemporary Egyptian Art, Ewart Memorial Hall and Oriental Hall.

The American University in Cairo
113 Kasr el Aini Street, P.O. Box 2511
Cairo 11511, Egypt

Note: students enrolled in the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies programs should be aware that while the department resides downtown and classes are held downtown, all student services and activities are located on the New Cairo Campus.

AUC New Cairo
The AUC New Cairo campus is in the suburb of New Cairo, a development comprising 46,000 acres of land and with a projected population of 2.5 million people. New Cairo is designed to be a predominantly middle-to-high-income residential community with schools, cultural facilities, commercial enterprises, government agencies, hotels, open spaces and parks, with the AUC campus at its center.

The New Cairo Campus is home to all the other Schools – Business, Graduate Education, Humanities and Social Sciences (HUSS), Global Affairs and Public Policy (GAPP) and Sciences and Engineering.

The American University in Cairo
AUC Avenue
P.O. Box 74
New Cairo 11835, Egypt

Your Offices on Campus
Office of International Student Affairs (ISA)
The ISA mission is to facilitate the international student transition to life in Egypt and at AUC, to enhance the international student experience, and to weave the international dimension into the fabric of student life at AUC. ISA provides nonacademic services, programs and events.

Campus Center • Room 1058 • 8:30 am - 4:30 pm • Sunday through Thursday • isa@aucegypt.edu

Amal Salah, Director • amsalah@aucegypt.edu • ext. 3836
Ibrahim Louris, Coordinator, ibrahim.auc@aucegypt.edu • ext. 3839
Mae El Ghazali, Executive Coordinator, mae@aucegypt.edu • ext. 3840
Nancy El Sissy, Assistant Director . nelsissy@aucegypt.edu • ext. 3837

http://www.aucegypt.edu/studentlife/isa/Pages/Home.aspx

Arabic Language Intensive Program (ALIN)
The Arabic Language Institute was originally established in 1921 as the Center for Arabic Studies. Today it is one of the oldest, private, accredited institutions that attract thousands of students and scholars from all over the world to study Arabic at all levels.

Alwaleed Hall • Room 1005 • 8:30 am - 4:30 pm • Sunday through Thursday • alin@aucegypt.edu

Laila Al-Sawi, ALIN Director • lsawi@aucegypt.edu ext. 2166
Sandra Sami, Coordinator• alin@aucegypt.edu • ext. 1730

http://www.aucegypt.edu/huss/ali/intensive/Pages/default.aspx

Business Support Services (Visa Office)
The Business Support office handles all services related to the passport registration and student visa procedures for all new international (non-Egyptian) students.

Administration Building • Room G019 • 9:00 am – 2:00 pm • Sunday through Thursday
Main • Room 424 • 11:00 am – 2:00 pm • Sunday through Thursday • AUC Downtown campus

Enass El Maghraby, Assistant Director • enass_m@aucegypt.edu • ext. 2355

http://www.aucegypt.edu/offices/supply/bss/Pages/Home.aspx

Graduate Student Services
The Office of Graduate Student Services works with the Office of Graduate Studies and Research to provide local and international graduate students with a variety of services. Orientations are offered every semester for incoming students, and activities are planned throughout the year.

Campus Center • Rooms 1017 – 1022 • 8:30 am - 4:30 pm • Sunday through Thursday
grad@aucegypt.edu • Wednesday: extended hours until 7:30 pm
International Programs Office (IPO)
The IPO office provides information on the advising and registration process required for the courses you plan to take at AUC.

Campus Center • Room 1025 • 8:30 am - 4:30 pm • Sunday through Thursday • ipoadvisor@aucegypt.edu

Randa Effat, Director, rkeffat@aucegypt.edu • ext. 3815
Soha Ali, Program Associate, sohaly@aucegypt.edu • ext. 3809

http://www.aucegypt.edu/students/IPO/Pages/Home.aspx

Office of Residential Life
ResLife manages all AUC student housing applications and assignments and coordinates a menu of cultural activities, trips and excursions to help residents settle into life in Cairo and the region.

Residence Complex • 8:30 am - 4:30 pm • Sunday through Thursday • ResLife@aucegypt.edu

Fatma Youssef, Director, fyoussef@aucegypt.edu • ext. 4019
Maissa Ragab, Associate Director, maissa_f@aucegypt.edu • ext. 4031
Yasser Allam, Senior Coordinator, y.allam@aucegypt.edu • ext. 4035

http://www.aucegypt.edu/students/ResLife/Pages/default.aspx

About AUC (statistics from the IR office)
The American University in Cairo (AUC) is an independent and non-profit institution founded in 1919. Designed as a male-only institution, the university enrolled its first female student in 1928. During the same year, the university awarded its first undergraduate degrees. Throughout its history, AUC has balanced a strong commitment to a liberal arts education with a concern for the region's needs for practical applications and professional specializations. Today, AUC continues to emphasize its American-style liberal education and its strong undergraduate programs while strengthening and expanding professional programs and the university's capacity to support outstanding, cutting-edge research.

The Students
Currently, about 90 percent of the student body at AUC is Egyptian and 10 percent are from elsewhere in the world. Egyptian students at AUC are mostly from Egypt’s growing middle class and the historically upper classes. Fifty-three percent are female. The degree programs with the highest enrollments are mechanical engineering, construction engineering, economics, mass communication, business administration and political science.

Degree-Seeking Students Attributes (1995 – 2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Students</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Citizenship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>4,176</td>
<td>48.10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>4,171</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>4,279</td>
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<td>51.40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>4,272</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4,329</td>
<td>46.80%</td>
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<td>4,731</td>
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<td>55.00%</td>
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<td>5,002</td>
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<td>4,830</td>
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</tr>
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<td>4,868</td>
<td>47.00%</td>
<td>53.00%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4,903</td>
<td>47.30%</td>
<td>52.70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>5,072</td>
<td>46.80%</td>
<td>53.20%</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>5,322</td>
<td>47.00%</td>
<td>53.00%</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>5,577</td>
<td>47.10%</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>6,203</td>
<td>47.20%</td>
<td>52.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>5,984</td>
<td>46.98%</td>
<td>53.02%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All International Students by Citizenship in Headcount

- American
- Arab Nationalities
- All Other Nationalities
The Faculty

There are 455 full-time faculty, of whom about 58 percent are Egyptian and 29 percent are American; 13% are of other nationalities such as British, Irish, Indian, Lebanese and German. There are also 383 part-time faculty who are usually tenured at the Egyptian public universities.
**About Egypt**

Venturing to Egypt is an exciting enterprise. The adjustment and learning opportunities inherent therein are a major undertaking. Reading as much as you can before arrival about Egypt and its peoples you will help ease what is a transformative, and at times uncomfortable, experience.

Egypt is located in the northeastern corner of Africa on the Mediterranean and Red Seas and covers an area of 386,000 square miles - or about the size of Texas and New Mexico together. Cairo, Egypt’s capital, has 18 million inhabitants and Alexandria, the country’s second largest city, has a population of 6 million.

Although Cairo has an urban constituency, a significant number of Egyptians inhabit rural areas. These are mostly the *fellahin*, peasant farmers whose way of life, centered in villages and the fields surrounding them, has only recently begun to reflect some modern changes. Other elements of the Egyptian population traditionally rooted in non-urban areas are the Bedouins — nomads of the deserts — and the Nubians, a culturally distinct Nilotic people who lived in an area along the Nile south of Aswan until they were relocated by the Egyptian government to new villages, mainly north of Aswan, due to physical changes resulting from the construction of the High Dam. Major cities like Cairo and Alexandria are a blend of many peoples and cultures resulting from successive invasions and migrations since Pharaonic times. Greeks, Romans, Armenians, Gulf Arabs and Italians among others came from outside Egypt, while within Egypt the migration of rural Egyptians to the cities continued. Some groups formed their own minority communities and others mixed more readily with the local population. Today’s migration to the urban centers is composed mainly of Egyptians from rural areas who swell the ranks of the urban poor—people beginning the transition from the traditional agricultural economy to city life.

**Part II. Before You Leave**
For Parents and Families

Studying abroad will be a defining moment in your child’s life - a personal journey that will add to his or her growth and learning as an individual for years to come. The experience of studying in Egypt at AUC will distinguish them from their peers and catch the eye of employers. Yet, we know it can be stressful watching your son or daughter prepare for study abroad. There are some things you can do to support and maximize your student’s learning and lessen your anxiety and stress.

- Encourage your son or daughter to be in charge of all the pre-departure plans. It will help them cope with the adjustment later on.

- Plan to keep in touch but allow some distance. AUC strongly encourages international students to keep in touch with family and friends while away. We encourage parents not to panic if their son or daughter allows more than usual time to pass without calling. Several factors could be at play. Their mobile phone may be lost or out of order. Or, they could be away on an exciting weekend excursion, out of range. The acculturation process will be slower and more difficult if your student spends a lot of time texting and Skyping friends and family back home.

- Culture shock, a term to describe the roller coaster of feelings that arise when travelers are overwhelmed for cultural differences, will happen. And, it will pass. When your student complains of homesickness or stomach pains and headaches, you can encourage them to visit AUC’s medical clinic, counseling center, office of International Student Affairs (ISA) or resident advisor in the dorm.

Health and Safety

Although the streets of Cairo are among the safest of any large city, verbal and physical harassment of women is common. Random violent crime is rare except for the occasional pickpocket or purse snatchers who will gladly take your money and/or passport. Like any big city, some neighborhoods in Cairo remain safer than others.

AUC considers the health and safety of its students of the utmost importance. There is a campus safety office and a security department on the premises. The safety office safeguards all AUC facilities against fire and other safety hazards. The security department has jurisdiction over those incidents that occur on campus only. They can advise and advocate for students in the local judicial system as necessary.

All international students are given an emergency contact card during participation in the mandatory orientation program. This card contains the 24/7 contact phone numbers of key people on campus from the clinic, counseling center, residential life, international student affairs, the associate vice president for student life and several others. Students are encouraged to contact the appropriate administrator any time of the day or night if they are in need of assistance. Please encourage your son or daughter to keep this card on them at all times and to use it as needed. To fully equip our students with safety tips for living in Cairo, common issues are addressed in the mandatory orientation program.

Students should be mindful of the laws of Egypt. Should they find themselves in trouble with local law enforcement, the U.S. embassy can provide only limited assistance – refer for legal assistance and check
on the student’s well being. Representatives from the U.S. embassy also participate in the mandatory orientation program for new international students.

In Case of Emergency
In the event of a personal emergency (accident, injury, act of violence, family death, emergency travel etc.), international students, their family members or home institution contacts should call the International Student Affairs emergency number as follows: from the U.S. 011 2.010.0006.6907, from any other part of the world 002.010.0006.6907 – an ISA staff member will answer and provide assistance. The ISA emergency protocol is in place to assist international students at AUC.

AUC’s emergency management team, chaired by the Vice President for Planning and Administration, oversees and directs emergency operations in the event of a natural disaster or time of heightened security or international event that requires the speedy flow of communication to international student body. All students and parents are encouraged to stay tuned to the AUC homepage to be informed of the latest news about how AUC is managing the emergency. Students are encouraged to submit their contact information in Egypt and update them by visiting myinfo.aucegypt.edu in order that they can receive emergency alarms and updates on their personal phones.

Health Care and Health Insurance
It is the policy of AUC that all international students have comprehensive accident, injury and sickness insurance including emergency medical evacuation and repatriation benefit. AUC holds a group insurance policy with CMI Insurance that is issued with the policy number GLMN 01173662 by ACE American Insurance Company. This plan allows your son or daughter to choose the physician and hospital for your treatment beyond what the Medical Services Department provides.

Find a Place to Live

AUC Student Housing
The University offers two options to students interested in living in AUC student housing.

Zamalek
Zamalek is one of Cairo’s most popular residential districts. An island just northwest from central Cairo, Zamalek is an urban, up-scale area that is home to some of Cairo’s best shopping, dining and entertainment spots. Zamalek is 38 kilometers, or 23 miles, from the New Cairo campus. Students can read and learn about the AUC Zamalek dormitory on the ResLife web page.

Campus Residences
Opened in spring 2009, the New Cairo campus residence complex offers townhouse living with the comfort of close proximity to class and university life. More information about the campus residences can be found on the ResLife web page.

Off-Campus (independent) Living
Disclaimer: The off-campus housing information presented on these pages is public information meant to assist AUC students (only) seeking accommodation in Cairo and should not be misinterpreted as an endorsement of any company, realtor, broker or website. The American University in Cairo and the office of international student affairs cannot guarantee and is not responsible for the availability of the apartments, the quality or accuracy of the information and service provided by these resources. Nor is the American University in Cairo and the office of International Student Affairs responsible for the behavior of tenants and any damage to the apartments, and therefore shall not be liable for any indemnity claimed by landlords.
Living independently in Cairo is an adventurous and challenging experience. Since the process of seeking and leasing a flat can expose important cultural differences we want you to keep the following in mind.

1. Living on one’s own in Egypt requires maturity, basic Arabic language skills, and previous experience traveling non-western countries.

2. The Zamalek and on campus residences provide a high level of security that is not necessarily available off-campus.

3. Be advised however that campus housing, in keeping with local custom, observes strict separation of the sexes. Men and women can visit only in the common areas.

4. And, AUC security checks all bags upon entrance (illegal drugs and alcohol are strictly prohibited).

5. Ask yourself – am I an urban warrior or as suburban dweller (mostly)? Am I street savvy?

6. Ask yourself – am I comfortable resolving conflicts and problems independently?

Given this information, decide what is most important to you and make your decision carefully.

Some students find that renting a furnished apartment in Cairo is more cost effective for their budget and allows a more independent lifestyle. If you choose this option prepare to deal with the challenge of finding a flat in Cairo and negotiating a fair rental agreement. Many students have suggested that the list serve “Cairo Scholars” is useful for finding apartments and roommates.

About Renting Flats

- Mixed gender living accommodations are frowned upon. Although there are some that will, many landlords are not interested in renting to tenants with a mixed gender make up.
- Loud boisterous parties where alcohol is served are also strongly frowned upon.
- One bedroom flats are in very short supply. Most flats are 2-3 bedrooms.
- It will cost approximately 3,500-4,000 EGP per month for a decent two bedroom flat in a good neighborhood.
- Apartment hunting in Cairo is something of an art. There are brokers known in Arabic as samasra who will show you apartments and charge a fee if you take one. Some students have had good luck in dealing with samasra while others have not. For reliable samasra contact ISA.

The fee for a simsaar, singular of samasra, other than those referred to by ISA is approximately 300-500 EGP. Make sure you agree upon their fee before the search begins. Some will try to charge you a fee for each flat you visit, whether you take it or not. Resist agreeing to this.

N.B. It is not recommended to reside at areas characterized with frequent disturbances including downtown and Garden City area.
Tips and Resources

The easiest way to find a flat in Cairo is to take one over from a student who is leaving Cairo. Use caution in choosing an apartment or a roommate not affiliated with AUC. Once you find an apartment, there are many factors that should be taken into consideration:

Negotiating and Signing the Lease

If possible, have an Arabic speaker with you when negotiating the lease.

Signed leases are legally binding and if broken could involve you in legal difficulties. Please do not sign a lease until you are sure you understand everything that is written in it. Most lease contracts are usually reprinted forms and for the most part are very standardized.

Do not allow the landlord to pressure you into signing a lease before you have had time to review it in full.

If the landlord presents you with a copy of the lease and then takes it away to only later present you with an ‘identical’ copy to sign, be sure it is an identical copy. Do not allow the landlord to pressure you into signing two different contracts specifying different amounts of rent; they may claim it is necessary for their purposes but it may ultimately involve you a lot of unnecessary argument.

Try to negotiate with the landlord, in writing, that the deposit will be the last month’s rent (depending on the amount involved), barring some kind of serious damage to the apartment that is your fault. This will save you a lot of trouble when it is time for you to vacate the flat, particularly since many landlords are reluctant to return deposits.

Find out who is responsible for your police registration—the official notification of your residence in that apartment. Usually the landlord will do this. It requires going to the local police station with a copy of your passport and registering your residence, something you must do each time you move in Cairo.

Discuss the condition of the apartment

Clarify who is responsible for plumbing, electricity, hot water, etc. Try to have the landlord assume as much of this as possible. Do not pay a deposit or rent until there is agreement, in writing, about who is responsible for what. Make sure EVERYTHING works before you sign the lease and pay rent/deposit.

Check the meters for utilities (electricity, gas and water) before signing the contract and keep the records in writing.

Ask other tenants in the building about the availability of water—some buildings or neighborhoods are notoriously without water most of the day. Find out if the building has a khazzan (storage tank) in case the water is cut off.

Find out if the landlord keeps in their possession an extra key to the apartment. If so learn under what conditions it will be used. Ensure they will not make unexpected visits or enter without knocking. You can ask permission to change the lock yourself (at your expense) and keep all keys.
Try to obtain and sign, separate from the lease, a list of all the apartment’s major furnishings. Note everything that is broken or snap pictures with your mobile phone during a walk through.

If the apartment is furnished ask the landlord to specify exactly what belongings in the apartment are for use by the tenant.

Make sure the elevator operates reliably unless you enjoy taking the stairs (ask the neighbors).

**Packing the Suitcase**

It is a good idea to plan to travel with a carry-on bag that contains overnight essentials – change of clothes, mini toiletries, medication – just in case your baggage arrives later.

When packing, keep in mind that upon arrival in Cairo you will have to get from the airport to your destination, walk a bit to the building and up a few or a lot of stairs. You will do all of this with your luggage in tow so pack wisely.

*What to Wear and What Not to Wear*

A woman wearing sleeveless tees, knee-high skirts, or sundresses or halter tops in public attracts unwanted attention. Scarves are really affordable here and are a great complement to any outfit that should look more conservative. Clothes made of see through or translucent fabrics are not a good idea either. While some Egyptian women may wear such clothes indoors, at sporting clubs, on the beach, in automobiles or on campus it is not advisable to wear these in the public arena. A woman should dress and behave modestly and inconspicuously while walking in the streets to reduce the chances of being stared at, called out, followed or pinched, which can happen. More guidance on avoiding unwanted street attention is given at orientation. In class, women students wear casual clothes — dresses with sleeves, blouses or sweaters with long- or short-sleeves and skirts or “baggy” pants or jeans.

Men wear shorts in public sparingly since Egyptian men save the shorts for sports related activity and the beach. Albeit it is common to see male foreigners wearing shorts in public if you prefer to blend in long pants are more the norm in public.

Some tourist destinations in Egypt have lax rules on dress and being trendy is part of the scenery. In Dahab and in Sharm al Sheikh, women relax in bikinis on the beach and men walk around town with their shirts off. Both of these areas are a cheap bus ride away from Cairo.

However, not all of the popular tourist spots in Egypt allow for wearing what you want. For example, many AUC students visit Alexandria and are surprised to find how conservatively most women are dressed and how many disapproving looks were given to them it seemed because he or she wasn’t dressed conservatively enough.

*Seasonal Suggestions*

In summer, comfortable, light-weight, loose (but not revealing) clothes of pure cotton are coolest, but cotton-synthetic blends can also be comfortable, especially in the spring and fall, and have the added advantage of not requiring much ironing. Fabrics that “breathe” are essential for the hottest days. Underwear should be all cotton (except for the elastic) — synthetic fabrics such as nylon in underwear
are uncomfortable in any hot climate because they trap perspiration and promote infections. Women do not have to wear pantyhose in hot weather.

In winter, you will want to wear layers of clothes indoors. Fabrics for winter should be wool or wool/synthetic blends. A medium-warmth winter jacket is essential, the more versatile the better.

**Women - Spring, Summer, Fall**
- Light cotton and cotton/synthetic blouses, shirts, t-shirts
- Slacks, jeans, cool and loose-fitting dresses, skirts
- A few dressy clothes for social functions and dancing
- Lightweight cardigans, shawl, windbreaker, fleece jacket
- Bathrobe, slippers
- Cotton pajamas or nightgowns
- Cotton underwear; several bras
- Scarf, hat for sun wear
- Several pairs of good walking shoes
- Hiking boots

**Women - Winter**
- Several sweaters of various types and weights
- Fleece jacket
- Cotton/synthetic and warm blouses, tops
- Wool slacks
- One or two versatile wool or knit dresses for parties and dancing
- Warm stole, knit cap
- Warm bathrobe, warm slippers
- Flannel pajamas or nightgowns
- Long underwear
- Tights, warm socks, pantyhose
- Sweatshirt
- Winter jacket

**Men - spring, summer, Fall**
- Lightweight sweaters, t-shirts
- Cotton or cotton/synthetic white shirts
- Sport shirts (short-sleeved)
- Summer weight suit and/or sport jacket
- Several pairs slacks, jeans
- Cotton underwear, cotton socks
- Pajamas, robe, slippers
- Hat or cap for sun wear
- Several pairs good walking shoes, one or two pair of dress shoes
- Sandals, thongs, sneakers
- Hiking boots
- Windbreaker
Men - Winter
Several wool sweaters of various weights
Fleece jacket
Winter weight suit and/or jacket
Long-sleeved dress shirts, pants, tie
Jeans, wool slacks
Long underwear
Warm socks, stretch socks
Warm pajamas, robe, and slippers
Knit cap
Sweatshirt
Winter jacket (medium-weight)

Toiletries and Medical Supplies
Almost everything you will need is now available in Cairo, although not necessarily in your own brands. The AUC clinic advises anyone using prescription drugs for long-term maintenance of chronic conditions to bring an adequate supply of the required medicines along with the prescriptions, including generic names of the drugs. Medicines should be in their original, labeled containers and accompanied by a doctor’s prescription to avoid arousing the suspicion of customs officers. Although most prescription drugs are available in Cairo, pharmacies may run out of yours or may have similar drugs that are commonly used to treat your ailment but not the drug you use. Also, there are occasional problems of quality control in the Egyptian pharmaceutical industry. Tampons are available in Cairo. Those who use contraceptives may want to bring a supply of their own brand, but keep in mind that pre-marital sexual activity is illegal in Egypt. However, for students who are married or may otherwise plan to be sexually active (not recommended as it violates host country traditions), local and imported brands of pills and condoms are available at low prices at pharmacies.

If you are used to a certain brand of toiletries, it is recommended that you get it from your own country, as it might not be available in Egypt or not in the same quality.

Household Items (for women and men)
Earplugs (Cairo can be noisy, especially during the late night hours)
Sewing kit
Compact sleeping bag for trips to the desert in cold weather (can double as extra blanket)
Pocket flashlight (when electricity is off, or for visiting tombs)
Voltage converter set
Posters
Daypack
Camera
Shaving Machines

Eyewear
While sunglasses are available in Cairo, bring one good pair providing maximum UV protection with you as the sun is very hard on the eyes. If you wear prescription eyeglasses, bring your prescription with you. Good quality eyeglasses with glass or plastic lenses, including bifocals, can be purchased in Egypt at reasonable prices. Because of the dust in the air, plastic lenses tend to scratch easily. While contact
lenses are available in Egypt, you can bring yours, plus supplies and extra lenses. Contact lens supplies are available but you are advised to bring a year’s supply of your own brand of contact lens solution. Saline solution (if you still use it) is sold at pharmacies, so if you bring one bottle of sterile saline solution, you can get it refilled at a pharmacy. You can get distilled water for soft lenses — pharmacies can make it to order for a high price, or you can buy it from gas stations (distilled water is used in automobile batteries). Some contact lens wearers have developed severe eye infections because of the dust. Contact lens owners should bring eyeglasses in case the dust makes lens-wearing impractical.

**Electrical Current and Equipment**

The current in Egypt ranges between 220 and 240 volts (but can drop well below 200) alternating at 50 cycles per second. The higher voltage in Egypt can be stepped down to 110-120 volts by means of transformers or converters. Transformers are available in Cairo in sizes ranging from 50 to 5,000 watts, although the larger transformers are very expensive. For small appliances, voltage converters may be used. Voltage converters come in two types: one for equipment using 0 to 50 watts such as electric razors and calculators, and another for appliances using 50 to 1600 watts such as hair stylers, hair dryers and irons. Converters will not work on appliances rated at more than 1600 watts. They come in a kit with adapter plugs to fit electrical outlets in all parts of Europe; the outlets usually found in Cairo are the “continental” type, requiring plugs with two round prongs (as opposed to the “British” type with two slightly shorter, slightly fatter, round prongs). Voltage converters and adapter plugs are widely available in European and Asian students should find that their electrical equipment will need no adaptations.

**Metric Converter**

Egypt uses the metric system. Those not accustomed to it should bring a pocket converter.

**Photography**

Bring a camera. There are many attractions for the photographer — photography of airports, bridges, military areas and installations is forbidden in Egypt. Consult persons more experienced with photography in Cairo before venturing far beyond the normal tourist sites with a camera. Many Egyptians, for example, cannot understand the foreigner’s fascination with the oldest parts of Cairo, which are often also some of its poorest neighborhoods. However, please note that some places in Egypt might charge some money to enter a camera, and also being cautious while taking pictures or shooting around the streets in Egypt is advisable.

**Mementos**

Bring photos of your family, friends and hometown to show to new friends — a good ice breaker.” Students also suggest you bring small gift items for potential Egyptian hosts such as posters, scarves or pendants, or souvenirs from your area, state, or campus such as t-shirts, Frisbees, pens or key-rings.

**AUC Payment Receipts and Acceptance Letter**

All New Students Should Pack (and have readily accessible) their AUC Acceptance Letter in Hard Copy. This is the best guarantee of your ability to initially enter AUC campuses until your student ID is issued (it may help in that process too). Having the acceptance letter in your email inbox will not help you unless you have a laptop and printer. It is in your best interest to print out the acceptance and have it ready to show campus security and other officials until you have secured the AUC student ID card and bus pass (if applicable).
If you pay your tuition, residence charges and other AUC fees to the New York office you will receive receipts to take to Cairo for presentation to the relevant AUC offices. If you have paid directly to AUC in Cairo, be sure to hold on to all receipts. This will facilitate your initial entry to campus and to obtain the student ID card.

**Extra Photographs**
Bring extra copies of your passport photo. You cannot imagine how often you will need them. They will be needed for membership cards, visa applications for travel in other countries and for a replacement passport should yours be lost or stolen. You can also get passport photos in Cairo. But it is a lot less troublesome for new students if they already have extra copies during the first six months of living in Cairo.

**International Student Identity Card (ISIC)**
This will certify your full-time student status and give you access to student discounts in many countries, including Egypt. Cards may be obtained through the [International Student Travel Confederation](http://www.isic.org) or STA Travel (www.statravel.com). Some home university study abroad offices issue the ISIC card. Do not assume that the card will provide you with unlimited health and accident insurance. Some do, while some do not, so check the benefits book issued with your card. Also, know when your card expires and what benefits may or may not be renewed. You can get directions from AUC’s International Student Services Office for the office which issues the ISIC in Cairo.

**International Driver’s License**
Even though you will not have a car (it is recommended that you use public transportation), in case you are over 18 and want to rent one occasionally, you will have to have an international license, an Egyptian license, and your own home country driver’s license. To apply for an international driver’s license, visit the [IDL Service web site](http://www.idlservice.com).

**Marriage License**
Married couples find it useful to carry their original marriage license when traveling in the Middle East. This is absolutely essential if a wife does not use her husband’s family name. Couples whose passports do not bear the same last name may have difficulty checking into the same hotel room or renting a flat together, unless they have proof that they are married.

**Pre-Arrival Information**

**Absentee Voting**
If you will be in Cairo during an election in which you wish to vote, contact your country’s embassy in Cairo. They will issue you the necessary paperwork if absentee voting is allowed. Also, you should check before departure with your local government office to confirm that you are registered and, if possible, to apply for the absentee ballot.

**Academic Calendar**
The normal business hours of the University are Sunday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Classes at AUC follow a two plus two schedule. Classes meet on Sundays and Wednesdays or on
Mondays and Thursdays. Except for some labs, classes are not held on Tuesdays. Most classes are 75 minutes long. The course catalog indicates the days of the week as

U = Sunday
M= Monday
T= Tuesday
W= Wednesday
R=Thursday
F=Friday
S=Saturday

The official university academic calendar is online.

Advising and Course Registration

Advising and Registration is done prior to your arrival; there is no online web registration for study abroad/non-degree students. Students are registered by the International Programs (IPO) and the Arabic Language Class (ALNG) offices based on their submitted PCP and ALNG placement exams. If you have not submitted the Preliminary Course Planning (PCP) form, follow the advising and registration procedures at http://www.aucegypt.edu/students/IPO/ISAA/Pages/ISAB.aspx.

The Spring 2012 schedule of classes is available online. Please visit the Registrar at http://student.aucegypt.edu and select “schedule of classes” to view course offerings.

For questions concerning academic matters and registration, including requests for course syllabi, contact Randa Effat at ipoadvisor@aucegypt.edu.
For questions regarding ALNG placement and courses, contact Nora Sabet at alng@aucegypt.edu.
For further information check the academic advising website for ISABs/Non-degree students http://www.aucegypt.edu/students/IPO/ISAA/Pages/ISAB.aspx

Airport Pickup

The AUC Travel Office provides an airport pick up service. We strongly suggest you use it for initial arrival to Cairo. It simply makes things easier to have an AUC representative waiting for you at the airport holding a sign up with your name and AUC on it. To request this service, you must submit an online airport pick up request form and after you send the request to nancy_g@aucegypt.edu or travel@aucegypt.edu you will receive reply with pickup confirmation and receipt as attachment you must hand this receipt signed and printed to the AUC representative meeting you at the airport, if you didn't receive the reply that's mean Nancy did not receive your email so please resend it again. You will need your flight information and student identification number to submit the form. The cost is approximately $14.00 or 70 EGP (Transportation only) at the Cairo airport and don't pay any money to the driver. However, you must submit your request for airport pickup no later than three (3) days before your arrival. In case of travel delays or schedule changes, immediately contact Nancy nancy_g@aucegypt.edu or travel@aucegypt.edu

Please bear in mind that sometimes drivers are picking up more than one student at a time. If you do not see someone holding a sign with your name on it, Please don't leave the arrival hall you must call Nancy at 010 666 27414. It may be the driver is in fact at the airport.
**Campus Safety**
The university's security team works in close cooperation with the Egyptian government to safeguard the campus and residences. All entrances are monitored and secured, with access controlled via ID checks, metal detectors and bag searches. An AUC identification card is required to enter campus.

**Cell/Mobile Phones**
International students often want to know if they can use their home country cell phone in Egypt. The answer is yes, if it is a tri-band cell phone. And, you have international roaming on your phone. Your calls will be very expensive. We recommend that if you have a tri-band phone and it is unlocked, meaning you can replace the U.S. sim card with a local sim card, bring your cell phone and obtain a local sim card. Local cards are very cheap to purchase. You can set up an account to be billed, or, you can pre-pay for minutes which are probably easiest for short-term visitors. If you cell phone is not tri-band or it is locked, you can purchase a cheap phone in Cairo for as little as $50.

**Enrollment Confirmation**
All prospective students offered admission to AUC must notify the University, in writing, of their intention to enroll, defer or decline admission. Student must complete and submit the Enrollment Plan form contained in the admission packet as soon as possible.

**Financial Arrangements to Make Before You Leave Home**
While some costs, like tuition, fees, insurance, visa fees and to a large extent, transportation, are predetermined, other living costs such as housing, meals, books and supplies vary according to the individual student’s choices and lifestyle incidentals.

The following is an estimate of expenses per semester excluding tuition, housing, transportation to and from Egypt, and extensive travel in the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food/Board</td>
<td>$2,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks/supplies</td>
<td>$450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Expenses</td>
<td>$650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel within Egypt</td>
<td>$650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa Fees</td>
<td>$60 (up to)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The easiest way to replenish your funds in Cairo is by using an ATM (Automated Teller Machine) card linked to a major international bank. Keep your bank account open at home or open up a bank account before you leave. Be sure to check with your bank to learn what bank service fees may be charged for each overseas transaction at an ATM. Many international visitors pay a flat $5.00 fee for each ATM transaction plus a small percentage of the amount of the transaction (up to 3%). There are ATMs throughout Cairo and on campus. You may consider opening an account at an international bank with a presence in Cairo. HSBC has many ATMs in Cairo and allows you to open a personal checking account online that can be linked to a checking account with another institution so that money can be easily transferred.

NOTE: To open an account at the Commercial International Bank (CIB) on campus, you will need LE 5,000 or $1000, a valid passport with a proof of residency (a letter of enrollment from AUC or a residency) and a valid student visa. Keep in mind that it takes a minimum of three weeks to obtain the student visa after arrival in Cairo. For more information, call the CIB hotline at 19666.
Maintaining a Healthy Lifestyle

Living in Cairo is physically challenging. It is not a place one should travel to ‘get away from it all.’ Many new arrivals report a ‘sensory overload’ from the large crowds, traffic jams, noise smoke and pollution. People smoke in Cairo. AUC is a smoke free environment as are some restaurants. In general smoking is part of the national pastime, especially among men. Finally, there are very few parks and green areas in Cairo in which jogging or cycling can safely occur.

Heed the warnings of people in Cairo who advise you what foods to avoid and where. Drink readily available bottled water rather than tap water when you first arrive until your system adjusts. Do not neglect an illness, cut or insect bite. Refrain from strenuous activity in hot weather to avoid heat exhaustion and dehydration. Dress sensibly through the changing seasons. Get enough exercise.

Then, relax and enjoy yourself. Should you feel unwell, seek professional attention in a timely manner at the AUC health clinic.

Work out facilities

It is possible to maintain a healthy lifestyle, but it will take effort. AUC has a brand new sports complex (facing the residences) with weight room, cardio room, martial arts room, gym, indoor and outdoor tracks, courts and swimming pool. Your student ID is all you need to get in. The Zamalek residence also has workout facilities although on a smaller scale. There are also private facilities such as Curves and Gold’s gym.

Yoga and Dance

Yoga classes are offered at AUC through the student counseling center as part of their wellness program. Select yoga and dance classes are offered in Maadi at the Community Services Association and the El Sawy Culture Wheel in Zamalek.

Healthy Food

Upon arrival to Cairo, be moderately careful about the food. Fresh vegetables and fruit are plentiful in Cairo. You will notice a richness in flavor and taste that is uncommon in many western countries. Most restaurants serve vegetarian dishes which are relatively cheaper. Health food stores are not common but a few can be found. Until your body adjusts, it is recommended that you shop for food at one of the main supermarket outlets such as Seoudi (there is a branch on campus), Metro Market, Alfa Market and many others where cleaned and packaged fresh fruits and vegetables can be obtained.

Medical Services

All AUC students should use the AUC clinic as their primary health care provider. Referrals to labs, specialist or other medical facilities will be coordinated by the AUC clinic that has provider relationships with the best hospitals in Cairo. A list of those hospitals can be found in the Orientation Handbook available to students upon arrival and check in at the ISA office.

All non-Egyptian students are part of a comprehensive medical service plan involving several area hospitals in agreement with AUC. The features of this plan include examinations by resident physicians or assistant specialists in the outpatient clinic; referral to specialists or specialized clinics in areas such as rhino-laryngology, dentistry and ophthalmology; medicines dispensed by the hospital pharmacy or outside pharmacy when prescribed by a hospital physician; hospitalization in the services of general
surgery, urology, gynecology, otorhinolaryngology, osteopathology, internal medicine and physiotherapy; maternity; and treatment of injuries resulting from accidents. The plan costs $85 per semester and is included in the student bill. This is supplementary coverage only and will not take the place of the comprehensive medical insurance (see below) mandated by the University for international students. However, it covers the usual deductibles of the larger plan and is sufficient for minor ailments.

Health Insurance

The Medical Services Department of The American University in Cairo is dedicated to promoting the health and wellness of the AUC student body. The AUC clinic is open on weekdays from 8:30AM to 4:30PM. A physician and nurse are also available for emergencies after hours.

A medical service clinic is also located in the Zamalek dormitory and is open from 5:00PM to 7:00PM on Saturdays, Mondays, and Wednesdays. There is also an AUC medical clinic located on the downtown campus from 8:30am to 4:30pm except Friday and Saturday.

More information on the medical clinic can be found by visiting Medical Clinic
If you are currently taking regular medication, it is important to remember that your medication may not be available in Egypt. You will want to consult with your physician and also contact the AUC Medical Services Department to verify that your medication will be available. The same medication that you take here could be available in Egypt under a different name.

Questions about the AUC clinic should be directed to Dr. Mohamed Amin or Mrs. Rania El Bahkeery, Finance and Administrative Officer rbahkeery@aucegypt.edu.
All students are charged a medical service fee that covers the use of the AUC clinic. Students are not able to request an exemption from this fee and for more information click here.

MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE

AUC requires that all international students have health insurance. AUC automatically charges you for two plans: a local plan, with the AUC clinic (check above) and an international plan, administered ONLY by the AVP, Student Life office. Details about this policy can be found here: AUC insurance policy.

IMPORTANT BILLING INFORMATION

Your AUC bill will reflect charges for two plans, the medical services fee as described above and the mandatory health insurance premium. There are no exemptions for the medical services fee. Exemptions to the mandatory health insurance will be considered only if submitted by the deadline date. If the exemption is granted, the fee for the health insurance premium will be removed.

2011/12 premiums

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER</th>
<th>Basic plan ($26/month)</th>
<th>With home country extended benefit* (additional $13/month)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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MEDICAL INSURANCE EXEMPTION

If you currently are covered under an insurance plan that will provide coverage in Egypt and provides policy limits that either meet or exceed those offered by the AUC policy. You can request an exemption from the medical insurance fee by clicking here for exemption instructions and form. More information is available on our website or contact Sarah Saher at ssaher@aucegypt.edu.

The deadline to submit the exemption form for the spring 2012 session is January 15, 2012. Note: that the online exemption form will not be accessible after the deadline.

Dependent Coverage
This option is available for students who have dependents (spouse and/or children) accompanying them. Fill out the form and submit it to the Office of the Associate Vice President for Student Life. Dependent Enrollment forms can be found online at: http://www.aucegypt.edu/StudentLife/StudentServices/ioso/Pages/MedicalCoverageforInternationalStudents.aspx

For additional information, visit the AUC CMI Insurance web page.

Mandatory Orientation
The orientation program for new international students is mandatory.

Payment of Tuition and Fees
Read the payment options available in the letter of acceptance. AUC requires payment of tuition and fees from international students in US dollars and does not accept credit cards. Allow ten business days for bank transfer to process. Check/money orders should be made payable to ‘The American University in Cairo.’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>AUC</th>
<th>AUC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall, Aug 15 - Jan 14</td>
<td>$130.00</td>
<td>$195.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter, Dec 31 - Jan 30</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
<td>$39.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring, Jan 15 – Jun 1</td>
<td>$117.00</td>
<td>$175.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduating Seniors Spring, Jan 15 – June 30</td>
<td>$143.00</td>
<td>$214.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer, Jun 1 – Aug 15</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
<td>$97.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Year (excluding winter session)</td>
<td>$312.00</td>
<td>$468.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students admitted through the New York Office
All payments must be made in U.S. dollars and drawn from a U.S. bank. The deadline to pay tuition fees is February 2, 2012 for Study Abroad and ALI students.

Students admitted through Cairo Admissions
Commercial International Bank Cairo
Hoda Sharawi Branch
Account Number - 0510300155
Swift Code - CIBEEGCX005

If you are paying by certified check, it should be addressed to:
The American University in Cairo
AUC Avenue,
P.O. Box 74 New Cairo 11835 Egypt

Send a receipt by fax acknowledging you paid: +2.02.2795.7565

Note: All new international students planning to pay at AUC must pay by check at the Al-Kholy Student Service Center or by wire transfer.

Loans
If you are expecting a loan check or have any questions regarding loan processing, check with Wesley Clark at Orientation or via email at wclark@aucnyo.edu.

Receiving Mail
Parents and loved ones will want to send you care packages while you are in Egypt. We strongly advise against it. The mail service in Egypt is slow and unpredictable. Bear in mind also that packages containing personal items are subject to delays at the airport and heavy customs duties.

Students can rent a mailbox at the Campus Center with a $50 mailbox key deposit. The address to receive mail through the university is:

YOUR FULL NAME
The American University in Cairo
New Cairo Campus
AUC Avenue, P.O. Box 74
New Cairo
11835, EGYPT

Students residing in the Zamalek residence can receive mail there at:

YOUR FULL NAME
AUC University Residence
16 Mohamed Thakeb St.
Zamalek, Cairo 11211,
EGYPT
Start-up Costs
It is important students arrive with sufficient funds to cover settling in expenses plus unforeseen costs. Do not bring traveler’s checks. It is difficult to cash them in Cairo. The following are estimates of expenses per semester you will need to pay for out of pocket. Budget accordingly. Keep in mind that these amounts are estimates and will change subject to personal spending habits.

Food/Board - $550 - $750 per month
Personal Expenses – depends on individual (approximately $150.00 per month)
Books and Supplies - $350.00
Round-trip plane ticket - $1,600.00
Visa fees – Up to $60.00

Note: Egypt is a mostly cash based society. You will find that credit cards are only useful at major chain restaurants, hotels, and popular tourist destinations.

You can maintain your personal checking account and withdraw money from ATMs after verifying that you will be able to use your ATM card while abroad. Keep in mind that withdrawing money from ATMs could mean that you will incur ATM fees and currency conversion rates as established by your lending institution. There are ATMs throughout Cairo and on campus. Alternatively, you may want to consider opening an account with an international bank with a presence in Egypt in order to avoid ATM fees. HSBC has many ATMs in Cairo and allows you to open a personal checking account online that can be linked to a checking account with another institution so that money can be easily transferred.

Visas
Egypt requires that you have a tourist visa in order to enter the country. After arrival in Egypt, AUC works with the Ministry of Higher Education in Egypt to obtain your student visa which is not issued until after your registration, payment of fees and enrollment. A minimum of 12 credits hours (nine credit hours for graduate students) is required for eligibility. Since obtaining the student residence visa can take two months, and only after all these steps are complete, you must enter with a tourist visa.

To avoid delays in what is already a long process, you must submit a copy of your passport along with the International Student Data form to the AUC New York Office. This should have been done as part of the application process. Kindly note that issuance and renewal of student visas is at the discretion of the Egyptian government.

Upon arriving at AUC, go to the Business Support Services office in the Administration Building, room G019-23. To continue the student visa application, submit your passport, two passport photos and your enrollment certification. If you did not already complete and submit the student data form during the application process, you will need to also fill that out and hand in. If this has not already been done, it may take up to three months to obtain a student visa. If you are at AUC for just one semester, it may be advisable to simply to renew your tourist visa. The visa officials in the Business Support Services office can advise you appropriately. Throughout the process of visa issuance, you do not have access to your passport (keep in mind when arranging travel plans).

How to apply for a visa to enter Egypt (Tourist visa):
At an Egyptian consulate
You can get a visa application from any Egyptian consulate. Do not wait until the last minute to apply. Allow several weeks if you are getting the visa by mail. You can also apply for the visa in person, if convenient, and may be able to get it the next day (North American and European applicants). Some offices may issue the visa while you wait. On the other hand, for citizens of some countries such as Iran and Syria, visa processing usually takes about eight weeks.

At Cairo Airport
Citizens of some countries may be able to obtain a tourist visa upon arrival at Cairo Airport. It would be wise to phone the Egyptian consulate nearest your place of residence to confirm this. If for some reason you are denied an Egyptian visa, there is nothing AUC can do. The University does not intervene in Egyptian government matters.

To obtain your visa at the airport, simply purchase the necessary stamp at one of the many exchange windows before passing through customs. At the time of writing, the cost was $15. Do not lick the stamp and place it in your passport! (Some customs officials are very picky about where it should be placed). Carry it, with your passport and arrival card, to the immigration line. Show the official that you have just purchased the stamp and he/she will indicate where it should be adhered. A few rubber stamps later, you are officially in Egypt!

Pre-Departure Checklist

Academic
- Obtain course pre-arrival from home country institution (if applicable)
- Complete and return Enrollment Plans form
- Submit PCP for to IPO
- Take online placement exam(s) (if applicable)

Accommodation
- Read thoroughly rules and regulations of campus housing
- Submit online campus housing application and deposit
- Make hotel reservations (for initial stay)
- Contact ISA for roommates/flats (Off Campus Assistance Only)
- Read off-campus housing web info

Financial
- Notify bank that you will be living abroad
- Obtain phone number to call to replace lost or stolen check cards
- Budget frugally for first semester
- Pay tuition fees
- For exchange students only – learn what your institution pays for versus what you are responsible for financial aid through home university – complete and process all paperwork needed for financial aid
- Student loans – make sure you have loan approval prior to departure
- Keep receipt or tuition proof of payment with travel documents (readily accessible)
- Note to self-pay students – be certain to arrive in Cairo with either proof of payment or proof that loan/scholarship monies are approved and en route. Your ‘settling in’ to AUC/Cairo will be negatively affected if you are not in possession of either one of these documents.
Health
Complete and submit AUC Health form
Obtain four-month supply of prescription medication
Complete and submit health insurance exemption form (if applicable)

Travel
Apply for or renew passport
Read Egyptian consulate web info for entry visa instructions for citizens of your home country
Complete and submit the data form included in application
Attend pre-departure orientation at your home school (if applicable)

Part III. Arrival Survival

Getting to Campus
Once you arrive in Cairo and you want to get to AUC’s new Cairo campus your best bet is by the AUC shuttle. First keep in mind the regular business hours of the university - Sunday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Although the university is accessible to students on Fridays, most departments, offices and services are closed for business. Exceptions are some food outlets operate on Fridays and the sports complex is open for limited hours on Friday. The library, food outlets and the sports complex are open for business on Saturdays.

How to Get to Campus
Unless you have family or friends in Cairo that can drive you, you can reach the university’s new Cairo campus by AUC shuttle or by taxi from certain city districts. One needs an AUC student ID to board the shuttle. In the case of your initial arrival, please show the driver your acceptance letter, along with your passport and you should be allowed to ride the bus. Once on campus, please obtain your student ID at the Student Service Center and purchase a bus pass there (or in G012 Admin Building) if it will be your primary mode of transportation.

To visit AUC Downtown campus, take a taxi to Midan Tahrir (Tahrir Square or ground zero of the January 25 Revolution). Ask the driver, or almost anyone, to point out the American university.

AUC Bus Schedule and Fees*
Fees for the AUC bus pass are, per semester:
2,100 EGP for undergraduate students
850 EGP for graduate students
$350 for international students
380 EGP for summer or winter session only
15 EGP per ticket, one-way (for those to decide not to purchase the bus pass)

*(The Transportation Committee is in the process of reevaluating the above mentioned fees)

The bus service covers most of Cairo and parts of New Cairo. The main routes are Maadi, Heliopolis, Nasr City, Zamalek, downtown and Rehab.
New students can purchase (cash only) and obtain the bus pass at the Al-Kholy Student Service Center (SSC). Returning students must pay for the pass at the bank and obtain the pass in G005 Administration Building (ground floor).

*International study abroad students who will pay for the bus through their home university must contact Mr. Wesley Clark in the New York Office at wclark@aucegypt.edu to coordinate payment.

AUC bus schedule is found on the website http://www.aucegypt.edu/bus/Pages/Default2.aspx, including a special section for international students.

The **New Cairo Campus Map** can help you get a sense of the layout of campus.

**Orientation**
Spring 2012 orientation will be held during the week of Sunday, January 22nd through Thursday, January 26th. AUC STUDENT Housing opens January 21. Your classes will start on January 29.

International students already in Cairo should plan to come to campus on **Sunday, January 22** to take care of routine transactions such as obtaining the student ID card, take placement tests (if applicable) and late registration. You can also take a campus tour to begin learning your way around campus and meet other students – new and returning. Upon arrival, you will receive a welcome pack, including the orientation handbook.

**Opening Session**
The Office of International Student Affairs (ISA) starts the orientation with an opening session on January 22 at 9:00 am. The session will be held in Mansour Hall at the Core Building. Upon arrival at campus, you will find orientation leaders at the bus gate welcoming you and ushering you to Mansour Hall. If you are being driven by a friend or a relative and entering through Pepsi Gate, you will also find Orientation leaders to welcome you and point out the signs that will lead you to Mansour Hall. The Opening session is crucial to attend, why?

1. You are going to be introduced to the ISA team who will help you not only during orientation week, but also throughout your stay in Egypt.
2. We will walk you through the orientation schedule and introduce ISA services, tips, and activities throughout the semester.
3. You will know your International Peer Leader (IPL) who will help you issue your ID, Bus Pass, Visa and take care of the stuff that you may need not only on campus but in Cairo at large.

**How to Obtain an AUC Student ID Card**
If you have already arrived in Cairo, it is a good idea to come to campus on Sunday, January 22 to attend the orientation and take care of routine business transactions such as obtaining your AUC student ID, purchasing a bus pass (if applicable), check-in and receive welcome packet, meet staff in the International Student Affairs office, the International Programs office and others that will be on hand to welcome you and assist with your settling in. You can also take a tour, check out the facilities and get your bearings.

To obtain your AUC ID card, go to the Al-Kholi Student Service Center or to AUC library.

**Finalize Advising and Registration**
International study abroad students can do late registration or finalize their pre-registration from January 22 through January 26.

**Orientation Sessions**

The following orientation sessions are mandatory for all new international students from North America and other western countries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Session</td>
<td>Sunday, January 22, 9:00-10:00</td>
<td>Mansour Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrival Survival Kit I</td>
<td>Sunday, January 22, 12:15-1:00</td>
<td>Mary Cross Lecture Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egyptian Political Scene</td>
<td>Sunday, January 22, 1:15-2:15</td>
<td>Mary Cross Lecture Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President’s Welcome</td>
<td>Monday, January 23, 11:00-11:30</td>
<td>Mansour Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egyptian Society Values &amp; Realities</td>
<td>Monday, January 23, 11:45-12:45</td>
<td>Mansour Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUC Services at Your Fingertips</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 24, 10:00-11:00</td>
<td>Mary Cross Lecture Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrival Survival Kit II</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 24, 11:15-12:15</td>
<td>Mary Cross Lecture Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Embassy Info. Session</td>
<td>Thursday, January 26, 10:00-11:00</td>
<td>Mary Cross Lecture Hall</td>
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</table>

For a look at all orientation program(s) schedule, see the Orientation Handbook at the International Student page: [http://www.aucegypt.edu/studentlife/isa/Pages/Home.aspx](http://www.aucegypt.edu/studentlife/isa/Pages/Home.aspx).

**Obtain a Mobile Number**

In Egypt, the mobile (cell) phone and the service ARE NOT bundled. You can purchase a reasonably priced mobile phone at the many mobile shops around Cairo. We recommend that you get the sim card and number, visit the service provider shop to prepay for service and purchase a mobile phone (device). If your current cell phone is unlocked (many from the U.S. are not) you can use that same phone, just change the sim card.

**Survival Arabic**

The American University in Cairo is an English language university. All courses are taught in English. For those of you coming to AUC with no background in the Arabic language—the University offers a non-degree 20 hour crash course in Egyptian Colloquial Arabic during orientation week. The Survival Arabic course is a culturally-focused, situational-based inter-active immersion in the spoken Arabic of Cairo. Students who take this course during orientation week acquire another tool toward successful integration into a new culture. Through a special study guide, state-of-the-art instructional aid and an accompanying CD for home study, the students are taught a lot of practical colloquial Arabic in a short amount of time.

Not speaking Arabic does not prevent you from experiencing the rich and vibrant culture. Having a basic competency in situational Arabic conversation can only enhance the experience. The course also has a cultural immersion component as well. Pre-registration for the course is required. Usually no more than six students are placed in each section, according to knowledge/proficiency level of the student. If your placement in a Survival Arabic section is incorrect—it is too hard, or too easy, please see Mr.
Part IV. Living in Cairo

Cultural Adjustment
The choice to live and study abroad is a major undertaking in cross-cultural living and learning. It will not be easy and the process will progress over a number of months. The payoff, if successful, is immense. You will learn about yourself, your home culture as you learn about Egyptians and their culture.

It is common for new arrivals to go through a period of culture shock, a (sometimes) anguishing period of reaction and adjustment to a new, unfamiliar environment.

Gregory Trivonovitch, a Researcher and Associate Director of the Culture Learning Institute at the East-West Center in Hawaii has identified four stages of cultural adjustment which are normal and to be expected of human beings adjusting to a new and different culture. As Trivonovitch notes, "these four stages are cyclic in nature, not linear, and a person will encounter periods of adjustment continuously as he or she moves from one situation to another."

The Honeymoon Stage
The honeymoon stage is characterized by exhilaration, anticipation, and excitement. Often recently arrived international students are fascinated with everything new. Most of them are embarking on a "dream come true," an education at a U.S. university.

A student in the honeymoon stage will demonstrate an eagerness to please, a spirit of cooperation, and an active interest when others speak. Students in this stage are delightful to work with and to work for, BUT in their enthusiasm to please they frequently nod or smile to indicate understanding when in fact they have not understood. When their misunderstandings mount up, they are likely to experience the second stage of cultural adjustment.

The Hostility Stage
The hostility stage is characterized by frustration, anger, anxiety, judgmentalism, fear, and sometimes depression. Following the initial anticipation is confusion and frustration with university bureaucracy and the weariness of speaking and listening to English everyday. It can be very upsetting that although students have studied textbook English, at times they feel like they do not understand anybody, or worse still, others do not seem to understand them.

Sleep patterns may be disrupted. The student may suffer from indigestion and may be unable to eat. International students probably react in one of two ways to their frustrations. One way is to reject the new environment, which seems the source of intense personal discomfort. Internally the student may think, "If I feel this bad, it’s because of them." The students blame the external environment for their pain. The other common reaction is for the students to internalize their pain and sit mute and inattentive in the classroom. (They might be thinking, "If I feel bad, it’s because something is wrong with me.") Whether the student withdraws or displays hostility, his or her pain shows in fits of anger over seemingly minor frustrations, displays of excessive fear and mistrust of Americans, frequent
absenteeism, lack of interest, lack of concentration, lack of motivation, and at worst, complete withdrawal. Academic problems will be magnified during this stage.

This is a painful, difficult stage, but it does not last. As each situation is "figured out," there is a sense of relief and accomplishment, which leads students to the third stage.

**The Humor Stage**
The humor stage follows when the international student begins to feel comfortable and relaxed in the new environment. The student begins to smile or even laugh at minor mistakes and misunderstandings, which previously would have caused major headaches during the hostility stage. The student feels more able to get needed information.

Making some friends, finding recreational outlets, understanding one’s studies, passing some tests, or finishing a research paper accomplishes this more relaxed state. The student is relieved once some progress has been made in managing the complexity of the U.S. University where organization of time, professors’ expectations, subject content, language, and rules of behavior are all different.

**The Home Stage**
The home stage occurs when the international student not only retains allegiance to his or her home culture, but also "feels at home" and functions quite well in the new U.S. culture. The student has successfully adjusted to the norms and standards of the university and should be commended for the ability to live successfully in both cultures.

**Being a Guest in Egypt**
Always remember that you, as well as every other international student, faculty and staff member, are a guest in Egypt. You are subject to all local laws. Propriety requires good sense, good judgment and respect.

**Money Matters**
The basic unit of currency in Egypt is the Egyptian pound (EGP), which is sub-divided into 100 piasters (PT). Unlike the US dollar, a “hard” or internationally-circulated currency, the Egyptian pound is a “soft” currency, usable only within Egypt. It is not possible to transfer Egyptian pounds outside of Egypt.

Note: Egypt is a cash-based society. It is necessary for one to always have a minimum of 300 EGP in pocket. In addition, new students must be certain to bring enough start up cash since it may take up to a month to open a bank account.

Egyptian currency exchange regulations are designed to protect the value of the Egyptian pound within Egypt and to prevent unauthorized outflow of hard currency from Egypt.

**Exchange Rates**
The bank rate of exchange between Egyptian and other currencies is subject to a controlled float and fluctuates from week to week. At the time of writing, the rate for US dollars is about 5.98 EGP = $1, or EGP 1 = $0.17. You can always check the website of the Central Bank of Egypt [www.cbe.org.eg](http://www.cbe.org.eg). The Euro is worth even more. The exchange rate is not necessarily a reliable indicator of the true cost of
living in Egypt. Rather, one must consider the cost of the commodity or service being purchased; an Egyptian pound usually buys much more in Egypt than 17 cents would in the US. This is definitely true for local goods although imported goods are usually expensive. Only Egyptian currency may be used within Egypt except in certain officially mandated circumstances such as payment for most hotel rooms, where dollars are required (by cash or credit card). The only legal way to obtain Egyptian currency is by exchange of hard currency at a local bank authorized to deal in Egyptian pounds or other approved office such as American Express.

Banking in Egypt
There is an active international banking community in Cairo. Not all banks offer services to individuals. Banks differ according to the legal charter under which they are formed. Broadly speaking, there are private sector banks, including foreign affiliates, such as Commercial International Bank (which has an office on campus), Egyptian American Bank, Citibank, HSBC and Cairo Barclays Bank, as well as the public-sector banks (wholly owned by the Egyptian government) such as the National Bank of Egypt, Banque Misr.

You can use your ATM card in Cairo to withdraw money in Egyptian pounds from your account at home. Check with your bank at home about associated fees. Money can also be transferred to you through Western Union and American Express but may take up to 15 days. You may also need to check the commission associated.

Financial Aid
AUC student financial aid is administered through the Student Financial Affairs Office in Cairo. The AUC New York Office administers U.S. financial aid for the University. All questions about U.S. aid or student loan refunds should be directed to aucegypt@aucnyo.edu.

Student Loan Processing
US citizens enrolled at AUC in a program leading to an undergraduate or graduate degree and Arabic Language Institute students enrolled for both the fall and spring semesters may be eligible to borrow student loans directly from the US Federal Government. To apply, you must submit a FAFSA at http://www.fafsa.ed.gov. The FAFSA school code for AUC is G05034. You must apply for US student loans each academic year.

FAFSA deadline date is January 6, 2012 for the spring semester.

After your FAFSA is received by AUC, you will be emailed an award letter with additional information. After an award letter is provided, you are able to decrease or cancel the amount you will borrow at any time before the first day of class. You may also request to decrease or cancel the amount you have borrowed up to 14 days after the date your loan money is applied to your student account as long as any refunds owed to you have not been issued. If you have completed all of the steps in your award letter, US student loan money is received and credited to your student account on the first day of class each semester. To obtain additional information about the US student loan process at AUC, please email Iwona Klos at iklos@aucnyo.edu.

Loan funds are used to pay tuition and fees at AUC. Any resulting credit balance is issued directly to you in the form of a check in US dollars fourteen days after the first day of class. US student loan
Refunds are not issued before the start of a semester, so budget accordingly. Refund checks are mailed to an address in the US or can be obtained in Cairo. If you do not have a bank account in Egypt, you should not request that your refund be issued in Cairo. Additional details on obtaining an expected refund can be found in your award letter.

Course registration is verified before refunds are issued. You must be enrolled for at least 6 credit hours to remain eligible for student loans. Your award is based on full-time attendance, so your award will be adjusted proportionally if you do not carry a full-time course load. Full-time is considered at least 12 credit hours for undergraduate students and nine credit hours for graduate students. The Arabic Language Institute is a full-time program. Graduate students enrolled in only a thesis course or comprehensive examination retain eligibility for student loans. Students who withdraw before the end of a semester may be required to return loan money immediately to the US government.

You must maintain satisfactory academic progress in order to remain eligible for US student loans. Undergraduate students must maintain a 2.0 GPA, and graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA. The GPA eligibility requirement for US student loans may be different from academic requirements within different academic departments of AUC. You must also complete your program within 150% of the programs length as indicated in the AUC catalog. For example, US student loans will not be awarded after three years of enrollment in a graduate degree program and after six years of enrollment in an undergraduate program. Satisfactory academic progress is based on attempted hours and not earned hours. If you fail to meet the satisfactory academic progress policy, your eligibility for US student loans will be suspended.

Climate and Environment

Climate
Autumn and winter are very pleasant seasons in Egypt. Mild weather prevails; temperatures vary between 60 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit, with cool evenings. In winter it gets quite cold at night. Spring is also usually pleasant, though around April, an occasional hot, sandy wind blows. Summer is hot (80-105 degrees Fahrenheit). Humidity is fairly low, however, and, again, it is much cooler at night than during the day.

The Environment
Cairo is physically challenging. Some features of the Cairo scene that often surprise or otherwise affect the emotions of non-Egyptians are detailed below.

Traffic and Transportation
Getting around Cairo can be difficult because of the crowded atmosphere. The dense population of the city is reflected in its crowded public transportation system. However, no matter the time of day or night you can be sure to find a safe way to get around.

Transportation at rush hours can be all but impossible when Cairenes jam the buses and trains beyond all imagination. Remember, too, that you are in the capital of a country and that dignitaries abound. Because of the heavy traffic, we strongly advise against riding a bicycle (except perhaps in Maadi) and owning a car is not practical.
The majority of AUC’s students reside in Cairo and have to cope with this traffic, commuting to and from campus daily, which means that your best chance of making their acquaintance will be during the day — around campus, in classes, and at university — sponsored events and activities. As for getting to your destination, you may sometimes have to abandon hope of catching a taxi and put on your sturdiest walking shoes. (Caution: Females shouldn’t walk alone late at night, especially in secluded areas).

Safety and security
It is crucial that you attend the Arrival Survival orientation session discussing security and safety in Egypt for a starter. Furthermore, you must check your AUC email regularly for security notices/announcements issued by AUC Public Safety Department from email address “Public Safety”. This will ensure that you become more updated and ready to undertake any initiatives/excursions with the info you need to avoid any hazards.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE
You can reserve an airport shuttle to take you from the airport to your destination and vice versa. The bus is air-conditioned and holds up to seven passengers. Reservations can be made prior to arrival via the website or in Cairo at their counter in the airport. Hotline number is 19970, www.cairoshuttlebus.com.

METRO
Cairo has an excellent subway system (Metro) that operates above ground in some areas and underground in others. The stations are clean, smoke-free, well lit, easy to navigate (the signs are in both Arabic and English) and the fares are cheap. The price per ticket is 1 EGP, which allows a single pass up or down two major lines. There are two cars in the mid-section of each metro exclusive to women.

NATIONAL RAILWAY
Ramses Station (reachable by metro at Mubarak station) is a hub for trains to various governorates around Egypt including Luxor, Aswan and Alexandria. Telephone 25753555, www.egyptrail.gov.eg. You can also book tickets at www.egypt.gov.eg/services and pay using your credit card.

TAXIS
Probably the most common means of transportation in the city, these black and white cars are almost everywhere. Just raise your hand or call out ‘taxi’ and they should stop. Name your destination and negotiate your price (if there is no working meter inside) before you get in. You should have an idea of the fair price to your destination. Most taxi drivers speak little to no English. It is common for taxis to pick up additional passengers going in the same direction. Do not get in a taxi that already has a male passenger up front. And, you can protest any attempt of the driver to pick up additional passengers once you have commissioned a taxi already. Women should never occupy the front passenger seat in a taxi. It is advisable that you ride the white cap with the meter and AC.

Cairo Cab/City Cab
These are the yellow cabs seen on the street. Unlike the black and white one, you can book a Cairo or City Cab by hotline. The hotline has English-speaking operators. The cabs are air-conditioned and
meter calculates the fee. You can pay by cash or credit card. Be sure to book several hours in advance. Hotline: City Cab – 16516, Cairo Cab – 19155.

**Smoking**
Non-smokers will find themselves in a smoking environment in Egypt, where smoking is something of a national pastime, particularly for men. Although AUC campus is a smoke free environment, relatively few places in Cairo are designated as non-smoking areas.

**Crowds**
Crowds are a fact of life in Cairo. New Cairo, still under development, is crowd free with lots of open space both on and off campus. Downtown and throughout the residential districts of Cairo, there is little relief from the dusty, (sometimes) hot city and the hectic traffic. Cairo has a heavy population density. In an area of 20 sq. miles, Cairo proper has a population of about 19 million and Greater Cairo, an area of 300 sq. miles, is home to an estimated 22 million.

**Health Care Facilities**
The AUC clinic is your primary care provider. All medical services for international students are coordinated by the AUC clinic located on the New Cairo campus (2615.3916) and on the AUC Downtown campus (2797.6747). The AUC clinic is open daily 8:30-4:30 pm and has 24-hour ambulance service. For medical emergencies after normal business hours, students can contact physicians’ cell phone: Dr. Mohamed Amin (012-100-5947) and Dr. Bassem Gamil (010-141-9098).

Facilities with which the AUC clinic has affiliations are:
- El-Mokattam Hospital (20 minutes from AUC New Cairo) • tel 2364.5994/253.4557
- Al Ahli Bank Hospital (on the Ring Road) • tel 2727.5262/5265
- International Medical Center (Ismailia Road) • tel 2477.5902/5908 • emergency 2477.5903
- Al Salam International Hospital (Maadi) • tel 2524.0250 • emergency 2524.0077
- Ain Shams Specialized Hospital (Abbasiya) • tel 2402.4111 • emergency 2260.7597/7589
- Al-Salam Hospital (Mohandiseen) • tel 3303.0502
- Egypt Air Hospital (Heliopolis) • tel 2290.8646/2213.7787

**Shopping**
Cairo is a wonderful and fascinating bazaar for those who like to shop.

**Food**
Shopping for food in Cairo may take slightly more time than one is accustomed to spend for the same activity elsewhere. In many neighborhoods one cannot be purchased all commodities in the same store. For example, fruits and vegetables are bought at fruit and vegetables vendors, eggs from the egg vendor, meat from the butcher, bread at the bakery, and canned goods, cheese, butter, water at the grocery. You should always pick your exact pieces of fruits and vegetables and watch that they are weighed properly. The large suuqs in Cairo sell everything and the prices are lower. A list of Cairo’s major suuqs is listed in the Cairo Guide, included in your welcome packet.

There are supermarkets in Zamalek, Heliopolis, Nasr City, Maadi and other downtown neighborhoods. The major supermarket chains are Seoudi, Alfa Market, and Metro market. These are western style markets that have a mix of local and imported goods.
Major Shopping Locations
Maadi District – Road 9 has everything. The Grand Mall has sports apparel, women’s apparel, pharmacy, shoes and jewelry stores.

Nasr City – Has at least eight shopping centers – Gmeena Mall, Wonderland, Cuty Center, City Lights, Serag Mall, Aqqad mall, Tibah Mall and the favorate, CityStars Mall.
Mohandiseen – Sharia Gam’at al-Dawal has clothes, shoes and car dealerships.
Zamalek – There are a concentration of high end shops.
Khan El Khalily in Islamic Cairo is the best place where you can shop for Egyptian souvenirs

Bookstores (popular)
Diwan Bookstore
159 26th of July Street
Zamalek
2735.3460
www.diwanegypt.com, info@diwanegypt.com

Shorook Bookstore
City Stars, Omar Ibn El Khattab Street
Shop #1250
Heliopolis
2480.2544

Bargaining
Bargaining is a fine art involving knowledge of current prices, extent of desire for acquisition, quality of the goods in question, tact, psychology, custom, and occasionally, theatrics.

The first thing to know about bargaining in Egypt is where it is done. Egyptians do a lot more bargaining than you do and there is a method to it. You will not bargain at a grocery store, a restaurant, post office or travel agency. You may bargain with green grocers, display prices, and anyone selling tourist goods; and certainly with cab drivers. Bargaining goes on at all the suuqs, except in Khan el Khalili in the stores where prices are fixed. If you are in doubt as to whether bargaining is applicable, just ask the proprietor the price of something you are interested in. If you think it could be lower, reflect that sentiment by looking skeptically contemplative, as if weighing the value in your mind. If the proprietor lowers the quoted price, you are all set to bargain. But be careful, he or she is watching very closely to measure your interest in the item. The best way to avoid ‘being taken’ is to not buy anything immediately.

Out and About
Egypt is known for being one of the best tourist destinations. Home to a spectacular ancient civilization, there is a lot to see. The following are must sees:
The Great Pyramids of Giza, open daily 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sakkara Pyramids, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Egyptian Museum, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Coptic Cairo (Old Cairo, Mar Girgis) 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Islamic Cairo, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Khan el Khalili  
Cairo Tower, 9 a.m. – 1 a.m.

The Social Scene  
Cairo is known as the city that never sleeps. The Cairo social scene includes a wide variety of restaurants and nightspots. Below are just a few that everyone should visit once. For more information, refer to the Cairo Map inside the welcome packet.

Popular Restaurants  
Sequoia – a great place to brunch, lunch, dinner or have a drink and a shisha. In Zamalek, Sequoia is tranquil by day, hopping by night. It claims to have the largest shisha flavors in Cairo. Reservations are a must. Located at #3 Abou Feda Street, Zamalek; 27350014.

Le Pacha 1901 – floating on the river Nile, Le Pacha is a haven of top-notch restaurants including Piccolo Mondo (Italian), Le Steak (French), Maharani (Indian), Carlo’s (International) and Le Tarbouche (Egyptian). Located on Saray el Gezira Street, Zamalek; 27356730.

The Bird Cage – an all-time favorite, The Bird Cage offers a low-key and intimate setting. Surrounded by tinkling water features and relaxing background music, it is the perfect place for a nice dinner date or small groups of friends. Menu is Thai and includes an extensive wine list. Located in the SemiRamus Intercontinental Hotel on the Corniche el Nil in Garden City; 27957171.

Sangria – is situated on the banks of the Nile with a balcony stretching over the water. The menu is a mix of Asian, Lebanese and Italian. Located opposite the Conrad Hotel, Maspero Corniche; 25796511.

Taboula – is where you will find some of the best Lebanese food in town which you can enjoy al-onside a shisha and a beer. Located at 1 Latin America Street, Garden City; 27925262.

Abou el Sid – rated by Conde’ Nast as one of the world’s 540 best restaurants, enjoy traditional Egyptian food in a cozy and retro oriental setting. Located at #127 26th of July Street in Zamalek (27359640) or at #45 Road 7 in Maadi (23805050).

Le Caire 1940 – is where you can experience and enjoy Egyptian and Turkish recipes along with shisha in an environment resembling Cairo life in the 1940s. Located in 17 Hassan Sabry st, Zamalek, above Shorouk Bookstore (27352906 – 01221584990).

Popular Nightspots  
Cairo Jazz Club – a Cairo staple, live bands play almost daily from 10:3-0 p.m. – jazz, rick, oldies. There is a vast bar but do not ignore the food. Overall, a great no-pretense bar to sip a drink and groove to the music. Closes at 4 a.m. Located at #197 26th of July Street, Agouza; 33459939.

Purple – is very popular with the Egyptian elite. This club is packed most nights. It is located on the Imperial boat in Zamalek and the dance floor is practically eye level with the Nile. Music varies between commercial house, R & B and retro. Opens at 11 p.m. and closes at 4 a.m. Located on Imperial Boat, Saray el Gezira St., Zamalek; 27365796/0101043308.
L’Aubergine – the great thing about this place is its versatility; this two-storied bar/restaurant features a quiet restaurant downstairs while upstairs is a trendy bar with dim lights and music. Menu has great vegetarian options. Whatever your mood, L’Aubergine is sure to deliver. Located at #5 Sayed el bakry St., Zamalek; 27380080.

Buddha Bar – is one of the most aesthetically pleasing Buddha Bars internationally. One full wall is glass overlooking the Nile; a great venue for dinner and drinks while enjoying the lounge and chill-out music. After midnight the music picks up and the dancing starts. Located in the Sofitel el Gezira Street, Zamalek; 27373737.

Tamarai – is the latest hip lounge and restaurant in town. Labeled a hotspot for the socialites of Cairo, it is the place to go for good music, good food, bottle service and excellent drinks. It is a dress to impress spot that requires reservations. Located in Nile City Towers, Corniche; 01224566666/24619910.

Useful Web Sites
http://www.yellowpages.com.eg
http://cairodining.com - restaurants and reviews, night spots, nutritional info
www.yallabina.com - prime online entertainment guide in Egypt
www.egypt.souq.com - online local shopping
www.otlob.com - online food delivery service
www.cdf.gov.eg/ - Cultural outings
www.cairoopera.org – Cairo Opera House

Social Life and Ethnic Identity
Social practice in Egyptian society as a whole is conservative due to the strong influence of tradition, family, religion, paternal authority and social class distinctions. International students should consider their behavior so as to show respect for Egyptian society and customs. Even at AUC, where appearances are often outwardly Western, one should not be misled into believing that traditional values do not lie beneath the surface. While Egypt (with the exception of the Sinai) lies geographically on the African continent, most Egyptians consider themselves to be more Mediterranean and Arab than African. In fact, Egyptians often refer to themselves as descendants of the Pharaohs in describing how they differ from other peoples, including other Arabs. Egypt, of course, shares the Nile with African neighbors, and is a member of the African Union; however, its Arab and Mediterranean links are clearly more developed. Except for simply happening to occupy the same continent, Egyptians may find little that relates them to the cultures of Sub-Saharan Africa. African and African-American students need to be aware of this fact before coming to Egypt. Even if you are Muslim, you will be primarily identified as a foreigner, and will be expected to adjust yourself as sensitively as possible to the prevailing norms.

Male-Female Relationships
Young Egyptians’ first concern is their family. Most live at home in a close-knit family atmosphere and have social obligations to family members. Traditionally, any major decision for the child, such as choice of a school or a mate, is a corporate family decision, with a main concern being how that choice will reflect on the family. With the advent of modern university co-education, young people have more opportunities to meet and work with members of the opposite sex without parental supervision, but
social life on or off campus still occurs mainly in groups, whether at eating or dancing establishments or at parties in homes. Individual dating before engagement is not a common practice. If dating does take place, it is done so discretely. In Egyptian society as a whole, the degree of social conservatism of a woman’s background may govern where – and in whose company – she may go and what she may do. A woman, Egyptian or foreign, who ignores societal conventions is open to social disapproval and may be inviting unwelcome advances. She needs to know where and under what circumstances to behave in a particular way without stirring unwanted reactions. Because street comments directed to women are common, everyday occurrences, your orientation sessions will give you guidelines on avoiding or handling these unpleasant situations.

Young Egyptian men are free to associate with the opposite sex and may date, but a female student should proceed very cautiously in relationships with an Egyptian man lest he misunderstand her objectives. She must keep in mind the significance of her social behavior in the Egyptian setting. Western women are often stereotyped as being “experienced” or sexually “liberal” because of the image projected by the media. Additionally, Western women in Egypt tend to go places and do things that are socially “off-limits” for Egyptian women.

A male international student, meanwhile, may find that some Egyptian girls are willing to spend time with him on campus, but not off campus. This is because convention dictates that unmarried men and women should not mix freely in unsupervised social situations except in a few places, such as on the school or university campus, or in the workplace. Egyptian social custom dictates that a man may not put his arm around a woman, touch her, hold her hand or even kiss her on the cheek in public without risking her reputation. With any relationship there can be obstacles, not only the usual conflicts involving personalities, lifestyles and goals, but also conflicts rooted in the two cultures, which must be taken seriously.

There are also cultural dimensions to friendships between Westerners and Middle Easterners of the same sex. Two Egyptian friends of the same sex may hold hands casually in public without this being interpreted by passersby as homosexual behavior. On the other hand, public gestures of affection between two persons of the same sex that are perceived as homosexual behavior can provoke a strong reaction. Also, earrings on men are considered to be a sign of homosexuality. There is no gay-rights movement in Egypt, for the simple reason that homosexuality is illegal, as well as rejected by both Islam and Coptic Christianity. For the crime of committing “disgraceful impudent acts,” the law imposes up to one-year imprisonment and a fine. Historically, when this law has been implemented with Westerners, they have often been deported instead of imprisoned. In any case, it must be stressed that homosexual relations are not welcome in Egypt.

**Religion**

A powerful influence in Egyptian life is religion. Whether Muslim or Christian, all Egyptians, even those who do not practice except on major religious occasions such as festivals, weddings and funerals, take religion seriously. Most Egyptians cannot conceive of one’s being agnostic or atheist. Nearly all believe in the existence of God, and were you to tell any but the most sophisticated Egyptian that you did not, you would be regarded as strange and perhaps not altogether trustworthy or acceptable. Phrases like ‘inshaa’ al-laah (God willing) and il-ham-du lil-laah (thanks be to God) are heard frequently in conversation among Egyptians and they are usually spoken with heartfelt sincerity.
Take care to show proper respect for Egyptians’ attitudes toward, and sensitivities about, God and their religion. Refrain from initiating conversations with Egyptians in which you compare Islam or Coptic Christianity unfavorably with your own religious beliefs, and do not assume that “fundamentalist” and “born again” mean the same in Egyptian society as they do elsewhere.

Travel within Egypt
Traveling in Egypt is always a fun and exciting adventure. There are so many historical, cultural, and entertaining places to go which are all right at your fingertips. The AUC Travel Office is available to help students with planning all vacations, holiday trips, transportation to the airport, and more. Additionally, some discounts are offered on certain hotels or vacation packages if students book through the Travel Office.

On the Travel Office’s website you can book airline tickets, entertainment packages, sightseeing tours, look up and book bus and train schedules, book seasonal vacation packages, explore the different Nile Cruises, book tours in Luxor, Aswan, Cairo, Alexandria, Sinai, and more.

Even if you do not want to travel outside of Cairo, there are still many sites to see inside the city. Some of these locations include the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, Coptic Cairo, Khan Al Khalili, Al Azhar Park & Mosque, Giza Pyramids & Sphinx, Ibn Tulun Mosque, the Citadel, the Islamic Art Museum, and many more.

When going to any of these locations, if you do not already have a ride, you can hail a taxi or take the Metro. There are two different types of taxis that you will see – a white one and a black one. For the most part, white taxis are the metered taxis and you cannot haggle or negotiate the price of the trip. However, black taxis are generally not metered. This means you can negotiate with the cab driver on how much you will pay for the ride. If the cab driver does not agree to your price, do not worry – there are so many taxis available, you can always decline the ride and hail another one.

The other option for transportation is the Metro. The Metro costs only 1 Egyptian pound (about 18 cents) and can take you around the major districts of Cairo. There are 3 different lines that span the entire city, and 2 more lines are set to begin construction in 2011. On all trains, men and women can ride in any car freely except the middle two cars, which are for women only. In any case, always have change ready when riding a taxi and pay after you dismount the taxi.

Emergency Management
The International Student Affairs Office (ISA) is ready and equipped to deal with any student or family related emergency. ISA has an emergency hotline number that is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including holidays. The number is 010.0006.6907. Upon arrival, new international students receive this emergency numbers, along with several other important numbers on the Emergency Card. If students do not find the emergency service needed listed on the card, they should call the hotline.

Examples of emergencies for which it is appropriate to use the hotline number:
1. If the family has not been able to reach their student for over 48 hours
2. If the student is ill to the point that they need to see a doctor
3. If the student experiences threatening or hostile landlord disputes
4. If the student has to go to the Police Station for any reason
5. Death-related issues
6. If the student is taking certain medications and is not feeling well
7. If the student is experiencing a mental health crises
8. If the student experiences Egyptian visa or travel problems
9. If the student needs passport information
10. If the student’s flight (either international or domestic) was delayed and they need to re-schedule an airport pick-up.

Examples of situation that DO NOT constitute an emergency OR USE OF THE HOTLINE NUMBER:
1. Student loan processing or reimbursement problems (instead, contact Wes Clark at wclark@aucegypt.edu during normal business hours).
2. AUC financial and housing payment issues (instead, call Ahmed Hamzawy in student accounts at x2449 during normal business hours).
3. If the student loses their credit or debit card (please contact the credit/debit card issuing bank to cancel the card. Go to ISA during normal business hours to coordinate the receipt of a new card through the NYO).
4. Academic problems; instead deal directly with your professor. If problem remains unresolved, and proceed up the hierarchy (department chair, Dean, Provost)
5. Phone numbers to different restaurants/pharmacies/grocery stores. Go to www.yellowpages.com.eg
6. Flight details (Student should check online, call the airline, or contact the Travel Office)

Before long weekends and/or holidays, international students are asked to fill out a “Bon Voyage” form. This form tells ISA where the student is going and who they are going with, which makes it much easier to contact the student in case of an emergency. Additionally, upon arriving at AUC, students fill out a check-in form in which they write their place of residence, cell phone, and other contact information. ISA strongly recommends that students provide their parents with their local Egyptian cell number and the cell number for their roommate as well. Parents should be patient and check their email inbox when trying to contact their son/daughter unsuccessfully via telephone. Cell phones are often lost, stolen or do not work properly. Sometimes students do not receive their parent’s call because their phones are off during class, labs or outings.

Suggestions or corrections for the online International Student Handbook should be sent to isa@aucegypt.edu